

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 CCO-00 /082 W

----- 047229

R 281635Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13403

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LAST LINE OF TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BEIRUT

REF EMBTEL 13324 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE I WAS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA
LATE YEWTERDAY HE HAD TELEPHONE CALL FROM LEBANESE
AMBASSADOR PARIS INDICATING THAT PIERRE CERLES, WHOM
I BELIEVE IS DIRECTOR ME SECTION, QUAI D'ORSAY, HAD
INFORMED LEBANESE THAT ISRAELI EMBASSY PARIS HAD EXPRESSED
CONCERN RE SAFETY JEWISH COMMUNITY BEIRUT. LEBANANESE
AMB PARIS ASSURED CERLES THAT NO WILLFUL HARM WOULD
COME TO COMMUNITY, BUT HE WISHED TAQLA TO KNOW
FOREGOING. TAQLA CONFIRMED TO HIS AMB THAT NOTHING
WILLFUL WOULD HAPPEN TO COMMUNITY. DURING BRIEF
BREAK IN CONVERSATION I TOLD TAQLA WE HAD BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH DR. ATTIYEH AND GAVE HIM GIST OF REFTTEL,
I.E. JEWISH COMMUNITY WAS CONCERNED RE GENERALIZED
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FIGHTING BUT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PERCEIVE SPECIFIC

THREAT AGAINST JEWISH PEOPLE HERE.

2. TAQLA SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR DR. ATTIYEH, WHOM HE CONSIDERS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND, AND WE DISCUSSED A BIT OF WHAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS UP TO. I TOLD TAQLA WHAT WE KNEW ABOUT THE MATTER AND LINE WE HAD TAKEN, AND HE HEARTILY CONCURRED. HE SAID FORTUNATELY BOTH HE AND AMB APRIS WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT JEWISH HERE BUT THAT THERE WERE OTHER PERSONS IN THE LEBANON WHO MIGHT NOT BE SO INCLINED WERE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO MY TALK I LEARNED THAT RADIO ISRAEL HAS MENTIONED PROBLEM OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BEIRUT AND THAT THIS WAS PICKED UP BY BBC. IN OUR VIEW NOTHING COULD BE MORE STUPIDER FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE UNLESS THERE IS SOME FIENDISH PLAN BY GOI TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR SOME PROPAGANDA POLITICAL BENEFIT. GODLEY

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